

CLAIMS:

1. A method to manage network addresses, comprising:
receiving a first request for a network address from a client at an agent;
5 procuring said network address from a network address provider; and
sending said network address to said client.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said first request is received using a first
protocol, and said procuring comprises:
10 creating a second request for said network address using a second protocol;
sending said second request to a network address provider;
receiving said network address from said network address provider; and
storing said network address in an address assignment table.
- 15 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said creating comprises:
assigning a unique identifier to said client; and
creating said second request using said unique identifier.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising managing use of said network address
20 by said client.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein said managing comprises:

receiving an assignment identifier corresponding to said network address, said
assignment identifier indicating a status and time period said client may use said network
address;

monitoring a time said client has used said network address;

5 comparing said time to said time period; and

requesting an extension to said time period in accordance with said comparison.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said network address provider is a dynamic host
configuration protocol server.

10 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said network address comprises an Internet
Protocol address.

15 8. The method of claim 2, wherein said first protocol is a layer two tunneling
protocol.

9. The method of claim 2, wherein said second protocol is a transport control
protocol and internet protocol.

20 10. A method to create a virtual connection to a network, comprising:
receiving a message from a client requesting a virtual connection;
sending a request for assignment of a network address for said client;
receiving said network address; and

creating said virtual connection using said network address.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said creating comprises creating said virtual connection using said network address in accordance with a security scheme.

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12. The method of claim 11, wherein said security scheme is a security scheme in accordance with the DES Specification.

13. An article comprising:

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a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in receiving a first request for a network address from a client at an agent, procuring said network address from a network address provider, and sending said network address to said client.

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14. The article of claim 13, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in receiving said request using a first protocol, and said procuring results in creating a second request for said network address using a second protocol, sending said second request to a network address provider, receiving said network address from said network address provider, and storing said network address in an address assignment table.

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15. The article of claim 14, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in creating a second request by assigning a unique identifier to said client, and creating said second request using said unique identifier.

16. The article of claim 13, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in managing use of said network address by said client.

17. The article of claim 16, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in managing use of said network address by receiving an assignment identifier corresponding to said network address, said assignment identifier indicating a status and time period said client may use said network address, and monitoring a time said client has used said network address, comparing said time to said time period, and requesting an extension to said time period in accordance with said comparison.

18. An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in creating a virtual connection to a network by receiving a message from a client requesting a virtual connection, sending a request for assignment of a network address for said client, receiving said network address, and creating said virtual connection using said network address.

19. The article of claim 18, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in creating said virtual connection in accordance with a security scheme.

- 5 20. The article of claim 18, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in creating said virtual connection in accordance with the DES Specification.

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